

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 3 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter. However, for reasons as stated below, it is believed all the claims are allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. The Drawings Satisfy Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to the drawings as containing foreign language wording. Substitute drawings were submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 23, 2001. Copies of the substitute drawings are enclosed with this Amendment for the Examiner's reference. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

II. The Abstract Satisfies Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to the Abstract based on formal matters. The Abstract has been amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura (U.S. Patent No. 4,323,837) and rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

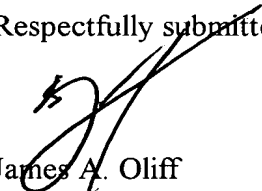
In particular, independent claim 1 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 3. Thus, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2 and 4 depend from independent claim 1, and therefore also defines patentable subject matter as well as for other features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

IV. **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2 and 4 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:YSC/ccs

Date: January 29, 2004

Attachments:

Figs. 1-3 submitted with a Letter to the
Official Draftsperson on April 23, 2001
Substitute Abstract

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